2014 Creative Aging Festival

About Creative Aging

"Each one of us is endowed with the spirit of creativity, whether we recognize it or not. We see it easily in the young child who turns a bed into a sailing ship and pillow into fortresses. We readily admire it in the brilliant pianist or determined inventor. We celebrate it in the ingenious efforts of survival by those caught in the path of nature's fury or the storms of war and other human cruelty. But we tend to overlook the same creative energy when, transformed by age and experience, it leads a retired chemist to become an education activist, or prompts a once travel-shy homemaker to take her first vacation abroad. Creative potential is there in all of us, an inner resource, renewable and vibrant, no matter how much or how little it is used. This creative spirit has the power to change our lives at every age, and to do so in quite different ways as we get older."

— Dr. Gene Cohen, The Creative Age; Awakening Human Potential in the Second Half of Life.

Our annual Creative Aging Festival was inspired by the work of Dr. Gene Cohen, whose research laid the foundation for a growing body of scientific evidence of the healing power of art. Creative expression, defined by Cohen, included creative accomplishment, product, idea, or understanding. Please join The Bloomington Commission on Aging in our month long celebration of Older Americans Month with the fourth annual Creative Aging Festival.

May 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12
Traveling Art
9:00a.m.-12:00p.m.
Free Admission
May 5, 6 and 12 at Comfort Keepers
4101 E 3rd St
May1, 7 and 8 at Better Day Club
4211 E. 3rd St

Better Day Club and Comfort Keepers are partnering to showcase the talents and skills of local seniors. The artwork was lovingly created over several months to promote the value of creative engagement and intergenerational understanding through art. Comfort Keepers and Better Day Club are committed to assisting seniors and older adults to maintain their levels of creativity while also exercising their brains.

Stacey Goffinet
Marketing Manager
812-322-4529
Staceyg@Comfortkeepers.com
http://www.comfortkeepers.com/

Friday, May 2
Art Quilts by Jacquelyn Chiddister
3:00-5:00p.m.
Free Admission
Endwright Center, Area 10 Agency on Aging
631 W. Edgewood Dr., Ellettsville

Join us for an art opening and reception celebrating the textile art of Jacquelyn Chiddister. Jacquelyn has many years of experience creating and teaching art in a variety of venues. Her exquisitely designed, award winning art quilts have been exhibited locally, regionally and nationally. Jacquelyn is a multi-talented artist; in addition to textile work, she paints, draws and enjoys designing patterns. The Endwright Center is pleased to feature Jacquelyn's art quilts as our premiere exhibit for our new series of art displays. Light Refreshments will be served. Sponsored in part by Ivy Tech, IAC, and NEA. Exhibit will be from May 2 until May 31.

Jaime Sweany
Director, Endwright Center
812-876-3383, xt 582
jsweany@area10agency.org

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Friday, May 2
Emeriti House and Indiana University Retirees Association Annual Art Exhibit 5:30-7:30p.m. Opening Reception for the Annual Art Exhibit Free Admission
Emeriti House
1015 East Atwater Avenue

Retirees and their spouses and partners from Indiana University and those from other universities who now live in the Bloomington area are invited to submit art for the annual Art Exhibit. The art can be in any medium.

Jerome Chertkoff
Chairman, Art Exhibit Organizing Committee
812-339-9519
cheertkof@indiana.edu
www.indiana.edu/~iura
www.indiana.edu/~emeriti

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Saturday, May 3 Living with Ancestors: A Tour through the Oceania Collection 2:00-3:00p.m. Free Admission IU Art Museum Bloomington Campus

This special thematic tour will explore Indiana University Art Museum's collection of the art of the Pacific Islands, focusing on the influence of ancestral roles and intergenerational connections in their culture.

Patsy Rahn
Tour Coordinator
prahn@indiana.edu
iuam@indiana.edu

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Sunday, May 4
Artside Chat: Creativity in the Golden Years
3:00-4:00p.m.
Free Admission
IU Art Museum, Bloomington Campus
Special Exhibitions Gallery (first floor)

Presented in conjunction with the IU Art Museum's special exhibition, "Matisse's Jazz and Other Works from Indiana University Collections", this program will be a discussion about artistic creativity and aging with Julie Hill, Life Enrichment Director at Bell Trace Senior Living Community; Robert Soto, Professor of Social and Behavioral Science at Ivy Tech; Rudy Pozzatti, fine artist and Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Fine Arts at IU. Nan Brewer, Lucienne M. Glaubinger Curator of Works on Paper at the IU Art Museum, will also offer insight into artworks on view and the latter years of Henri Matisse's later year's career as a visual artist.

Ann Fields
Curatorial & Educational Programs Coordinator
812-856-3138
ankafiel@indiana.edu
iuam@indiana.edu

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Monday, May 5
Put Pain in Its Place
1:00-2:00p.m.
Free Admission
South East YMCA
2125 S. Highland Ave.

Put Pain in Its Place is an educational program that was developed by the Arthritis Foundation in conjunction with the National Council on Aging. The primary audience is seniors that have osteoarthritis. The pain associated with the disease can take control of a person's life if they do

not have the tools to manage it. Put Pain in Its Place will inspire participants to take action to get their pain under control and to build their life around wellness, not illness.

Gayle Ebel
Wellness Director
812-961-2171
gebel@monroecountyymca.org
monroecountyymca.org

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Tuesday, May 6
Dance For Parkinsons Bloomington
11:30–12:30p.m., plus half hour Q & A, optional
Free Admission: \$5.00 donation, as desired
Windfall Studio
1101 N. Dunn St.

Dance class designed for those with Parkinsons and their caregivers, but open to all participants of the Creative Aging Festival. Come share fun, easy exercises, moving to music, community and creation. Class includes seated and standing movement. Come as you are, leave a little brighter!

Marie-Louise "Weezie" Smith
(812) 336-2429 or
Roberta Wong
Adjunct Lecturer, IU Department of Theater, Drama,
and Contemporary Dance
rwong@indiana.edu
www.windfalldancers.org

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Tuesday, May 6
Generations of Gardening Together
2:30–4:00p.m.
(Rain date: Tuesday, May 13, 3:30-5:00p.m.)
Free Admission
Monroe County Public Library
Children's Courtyard Garden
303 E. Kirkwood Ave.

Do you love to garden and share your knowledge with younger generations? If you are 55 or older and would like to join children in the planting of flowers, vegetables and herbs in our Children's Courtyard Garden, doing a few garden crafts and enjoying some refreshments, we would be happy to have you!

Register in advance by contacting Annie Segraves Homebound Service Coordinator Monroe County Public Library 812-349-3084 segraves@mcpl.info www.mcpl.info

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Wednesday, May 7
Zumba Gold
5:30-6:15p.m.
Free Admission
South East YMCA
2125 S. Highland Ave.

Zumba Gold is an international music and classic dance-based program appropriate for older adults and others with compromised joint stability and body mobility. Designed for cognitive sharpness, this class provides a fun approach to cardio exercise without impact and also includes a balance segment.

Gayle Ebel
Wellness Director
812-961-2171
gebel@monroecountyymca.org
monroecountyymca.org

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Thursday, May 8
Music Through the Decades
10:30-11:30a.m.
Free Admission
Allison-Jukebox Community Center
351 South Washington Street

Join us for an hour of music making, featuring our favorite songs through the decades. This session will provide opportunities to socialize, sing, dance, and explore a variety of rhythm instruments. Exercise your mind, body, and spirit with music therapists from Fogerty Music Therapy. No prior musical experience is needed.

Tina de Leeuw, MS, MT-BC
Family and Community Liaison
812-679-6146
deleeuw.tina@gmail.com
www.FogertyMusicTherapy.com

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Thursday, May 8 Craig and The Crawdads at the Strawberry Festival 11:30a.m.-1:00p.m.

Free Admission: \$5 for strawberry shortcake with

ice cream and whipped cream, optional

Monroe County Courthouse

Craig & The Crawdads will perform on the Courthouse stage in downtown Bloomington at the 2014 Strawberry Festival! Bring your friends, family, and co-workers to the festival, brought to Bloomington each year by the Boys & Girls Club Ladies Auxiliary. This fundraiser benefits the Club and is an annual town favorite! The festival itself runs from 10:30a.m. - 2:30p.m.; Craig & The Crawdads play from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Craig Brenner
812-334-0415
craigbrennerboogies@gmail.com
http://www.craigbrenner.com/

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Thursday, May 8
Harmonies of Healing
7:00-9:00p.m.
Admission Fee: \$33
Unity of Bloomington
4001 S. Rogers St.

When we use our voice as the instrument of peace and creativity that it was designed for, singing on key is only one side effect! When speaking our truth from our core muscles, communication becomes heart driven and authentic. We will learn how "Toning" can ease pain, reduce stress, release old toxic emotions and create peace in our lives! Harmonies of Healing is a practice of Sound, Singing and Spirituality used to promote Wholeness, Wellness and Inner Peace.

Lauren Lane Powell
Founder/Director
812-825-9597
singforyoursoul@aol.com
www.harmoniesofhealing.com
www.unityofbloomington.org

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Saturday, May 10 Craig & The Crawdads at the Exotic Feline Rescue Center Run Through the Jungle 5K 9:30a.m. Admission Fee: \$24 Exotic Feline Rescue Center 2221 E. Ashboro Rd.

Center Point, IN (west of Spencer)

This spring event is a 5k run or walk through the Exotic Feline Rescue Center, with music by Craig & The Crawdads, to raise funds for the center. All ages are welcome. Many seniors will receive medals for walking and running! Not many people can say they've recently run by lions and tigers and puma! For more information about the Run Through the Jungle, go to: http://www.junglerun5k.com/

Craig Brenner
Community & Family Resources
City of Bloomington
812-334-0415
craigbrennerboogies@gmail.com
http://www.craigbrenner.com

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Saturday, May 10 LGBT Caring Network Open Mic 3-6p.m. Free Admission: Donations welcome Rachel's Café 300 E. Third St.

Our membership will be prepared to take to the stage with poetry, music and/or dance. Other art forms (painting, weaving, gourds, crocheting, etc.) will be displayed just to show off and/or for sale. Community members are invited to take to the stage and/or to display works of art, as part of fostering strong intergenerational communication.

Mary Elftman
Events Facilitator
812-327-7022
mael@earthlink.net
https://www.facebook.com/LgbtACN?ref=br_tf

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Tuesday, May 13
Memory Art and Aging: The Life-Story Objects of Indiana Seniors 4:00-5:30p.m.
Free Admission
City Hall Council Chambers

Folklorist Jon Kay, Director of Traditional Arts Indiana, will address the importance of life review and art making to the successful aging process of seniors based on case studies from his years of working with senior folk artists. From colorful walking sticks and quilts to paintings and hooked rugs seniors make art to reflect upon their lives, record their memories, and to share their stories with others. Jon will share his observations about the how and why seniors make and use these three distinct aspects of art making, as well as what we can learn from them.

Phillip Stafford
Director, Center on Aging and Community
812-855-2163
staffor@indiana.edu
http://www.iidc.indiana.edu

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Wednesday, May 14 50+ Expo 10a.m.-2p.m. Free Admission Twin Lakes Recreation Center 1700 W. Bloomfield Rd.

The newly renamed 50+ Expo is in its 40th year of being the community's premier showcase of businesses and organizations whose products and services are targeted to improve the health, activity levels, and creative lifestyles of people 50 years and older. Offerings include: *A large hall filled with exhibitors *Local health care professionals offering various free health screenings *Interactive demonstrations and presentations featuring a variety of active and creative activities. Drop by anytime during the day for this free event. Transportation to and from the parking lot will be provided.

Bill Ream
Community Events Coordinator
Bloomington Parks & Recreation
812-349-3748
reamw@bloomington.in.gov
bloomington.in.gov/srexpo

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Thursday, May 15
Culture Connects Community
11:30a.m.-1:00p.m.
Free Admission
Bell Trace Senior Living
800 Bell Trace Circle

The Active Aging Coalition welcomes our guest speaker for May: Miah Michaelsen, Assistant Economic Development Director for Bloomington. Her presentation will focus on intergenerational issues and opportunities in the arts. Miah manages the Bloomington Entertainment and Arts District (BEAD), is liaison to the City of Bloomington Arts Commission, collaborates with artists and arts organizations and coordinates public arts projects.

RSVP for included free lunch buffet by May 8 at 332-2355.

Gail Londergan

AAC Steering Committee
londer@indiana.edu
www.activeagingcoalition.org

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Friday, May 16
Spring into Salad
11a.m.-1p.m.
Admission Fee: \$15
Bloomington Cooking School
115 N. College Ave, Suite 014

This cooking class celebrates spring salad by exploring the great variety of greens, heirloom vegetables, fresh fruit and nuts which can be used on salads. You will create and design a variety of salads from veggie salads, to the Italian classic Caprese salad, fruit and nut salads to herbs and edible flower salads. You'll learn how to make a variety of luscious dressings to accompany any salad and sample everything.

Jan Bulla-Baker
812-333-7100
jan@bloomingtoncookingschool.com
http://bloomingtoncookingschool.com/

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Friday, May 16
The Healing Powers of Music as We Age
1:00-3:00p.m.
Free Admission: Donations are encouraged and gratefully accepted to support Endwright Center programming
Endwright Center, Area 10 Agency on Aging
631 W. Edgewood Dr., Ellettsville

Acclaimed musicians Janiece Jaffe and Curtis Cantwell Jackson will sing beautiful, uplifting duets and lead us in conversation about the healing powers of music and the importance of music as we age. Curtis and Janiece are a popular performance duo and have recorded two CDs together, Songs That Make you Feel This Way, and Every Day is Christmas. Sponsored by Area 10 Agency on Aging, City of Bloomington's Commission on Aging, the IAC, Ivy Tech, the NEA and Smithville Charitable Foundation.

Jaime Sweany
Director, Endwright Center
812-876-3383, ext. 515
isweany@area10agency.org
www.area10agency.org

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Friday, May 16
The UkeTones
5:00-7:15p.m.
Admission Free: Tipping encouraged
Player's Pub
424 S. Walnut

The UkeTones are a fun-loving ukulele band that does covers for all generations. The band is composed of Susan Sandberg, Ellen Campbell, Reina Wong and Kathy Romy, well-seasoned women who will never be too old to rock and roll!

Susan Sandberg
Member, The UkeTones
812-320-8552
sisandbar@juno.com
http://theplayerspub.com/

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Saturday, May 17
Intergenerational Open House
9:30-11:30a.m.
Free Admission
Indiana University Campus Children's Center
2613 E. 10th St.

Indiana University Campus Children's Center provides care and education for children from birth to five years old. We strongly value the children's intergenerational relationships, whether with family members or seniors in our Bloomington community. We believe that these relationships enhance their social and emotional development. The open house will showcase the artistic skills of seniors, so that their talents and passions might be passed on to the younger generation. There will also be hands-on exploration of art and crafts. All generations are welcome!

Michiru Oleson Teacher 812-855-0789 mioleson@indiana.edu www.indiana.edu/~ccc

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Saturday, May 17 Sterling House Craft Fair 12:00-4:00p.m. Free Admission Sterling House 3802 S. Sare Rd.

The Sterling House Craft Fair is going to showcase the crafting talents of our residents, as well as local artists. Entertainment and refreshments will be provided. Proceeds will benefit the Sterling House Programming Department and the Alzheimer's Association.

Erica Nicholson
Resident Programs Coordinator
812-330-0885
enicholson@brookdaleliving.com
http://www.brookdaleliving.com/

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Saturday, May 17

Season of Joy: Bloomington Peace Choir's Spring Concert

3:00p.m. Reception following

Admission Fee: One canned/boxed food donation for Hoosier Hills Food Bank. Donations are

accepted and are tax-deductible. St. Mark's United Methodist Church

100 N. St. Rd. 46

The Bloomington Peace Choir invites you to celebrate Spring with its Season of Joy Concert. Songs will be presented that celebrate peace and harmony both from around the world and from the American popular song genre.

Beth Sluys
Executive Director
812-935-5065
bloomingtonpeacechoir@gmail.com
http://www.bloomingtonpeacechoir.org/

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Tuesday, May 20 Lake Monroe Watershed Ecotour 10:00a.m.-2:00p.m.

Admission Fee: \$25 - Reservations required, box lunch provided

Meet at The Endwright Center, Area 10 Agency on Aging, 631 W. Edgewood Dr., Ellettsville.

Join us for a Natural Bloomington Ecotours & More tour of Lake Monroe's scenic watershed areas! Destinations will include Moore's Creek, Hardin Ridge, Allen's Creek, Paynetown State Recreation Area, Lake Monroe Dam, and North Fork Waterfowl Resting Area. We'll discuss the historical importance of these areas and environmental sustainability, in general. We will also enjoy strolls,

accommodating different levels of mobility, that offer opportunities for nature photography. Journals will be provided in order to reflect on our experience. We will be touring in a Rural Transit bus. Sponsored by Area 10 Agency on Aging, The Endwright Center, Natural Bloomington, Rural Transit, City of Bloomington Commission on Aging Coalition, Garden Villa and the Smithville Charitable Foundation.

Jaime Sweany
Director, Endwright Center
812-876-3383, ext. 515
jsweany@area10agency.org
www.area10agency.org

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Wednesday, May 21
The Story of Plein Air: Finding Composition Around You 1:00-4:30p.m.
Free Admission
Hinkle-Garton Farmstead
2920 E 10th St.

Learn about local historical treasures and enjoy the restorative experience of a spring day art activity with local artist, Betty Wagoner! Weather permitting we will work en plein air! After a brief instruction on water color pencil techniques and basics in finding composition, we will select a flower, garden, building or landscape and create our own artistic expression! No previous art experience required. Supplies provided by T.C. Steele SHS. Limited to 12 participants. Registration is required on first come first serve basis by calling 812.988.2785 or emailing mrichards@indianamuseum.org. Co-Sponsored by the T.C. Steele State Historic Site and the Hinkle-Garton Farmstead Community Historic Site.

Megan Richards
Arts Program Developer
812.988.2785
mrichards@indianamuseum.org
www.tcsteele.org

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Thursday, May 22
Active Living Across the Lifespan
9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.
6:00-8:00p.m. open house, presentation
of the walkability survey results
Free Admission: Lunch included
Landmark Church
2429 South Ford Ave

With support from the CDC and the State Department of Health, this day long public conference will help Bloomington neighborhoods and government partners plan a healthier city through

improvements in the built environment and services. A walkability audit will reveal best practices and needs for improvement in a selected Bloomington neighborhood and help others learn how to do the audit. A joint program of the Monroe County Active Living Coalition and Active Aging Coalition.

Pre-registration required
Phillip Stafford
Director, Center on Aging and Community
812-855-2163
staffor@indiana.edu
www.lifetimecommunities.org

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Friday, May 23
An Afternoon of Puzzling Activities
1:00-4:00p.m.
Free Admission: Donations accepted
Endwright Center, Area 10 Agency on Aging
631 W. Edgewood Dr., Ellettsville

Enjoy an afternoon of puzzling activities as Marc Tschida of Press Puzzles demonstrates crafting jigsaw puzzles out of recycled wood with a scroll saw. Marc cuts each well-crafted, one-of-a-kind puzzle piece in a variety of shapes/styles. Festivities include learning how to make your own puzzle out of everyday items, communal tables for working on pre-cut jig-saw puzzles, as well as information on the history of jigsaw puzzles. Light refreshments will be served. Watch as a unique puzzle emerges during this afternoon of puzzling activities!

Jaime Sweany
Director, Endwright Center
812-876-3383, ext. 515
jsweany@area10agency.org
www.area10agency.org
www.presspuzzles.com

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Saturday, May 24
Walk in Wonder: Labyrinth Walking for All Ages
1:00-5:00p.m.
Free Admission
First United Church
2420 E Third St.

The outdoor Walk in Peace Labyrinth at First United Church will be open to walk and explore how the labyrinth can contribute to well-being and creative living. Brief introductions to walking the labyrinth will be presented at 1:00p.m., 2:30p.m. and 4:00p.m. for those who may be new to the practice. It is not necessary to attend a presentation in order to walk. You may begin your walk anytime between 1:00p.m. and 5:00p.m. Facilitators will be present to answer questions

and provide support materials and activities as needed. A second canvas labyrinth will be available to walk indoors. Art materials will be supplied for creative response and for making personal finger labyrinths to take home. A free will donation for supplies accepted.

Dawna Petersen
Spiritual Director
812-334-2926
spiritual.director@firstuc.org
First United Church
firstuc.org

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Saturday, May 24

Time Travels: Bloomington's 3rd Annual Intergenerational Song and Story Celebration

7:30p.m.

Admission Fee: \$15 student/senior, \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door

Ivy Tech John Waldron Auditorium

This multi-cultural, multi-generational celebration of creativity is hosted by Krista Detor, who will perform along with the acclaimed vocal ensemble, Kaia; the wonderful weaver of words, Arbutus Cunningham; extraordinary vocalists, Janiece Jaffe and Amanda Biggs; the Windfall Dancers Youth Ensemble (under the direction of Celina Jaffe); Boys & Girls Club, Inc., plus more surprise guests! Proceeds benefit the Endwright Center (a program of Area 10 Agency on Aging) which provides a welcoming, safe and supportive environment where older adults enhance their wellbeing through friendship, fitness and free/affordable quality creative arts programming. Tickets on sale at the Sunrise Box Office.

Krista Detor
Producer
www.kristadetor.com/
Tightrope, Inc.
www.facebook.com/TIMETRAVELSMINIFEST

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Tuesday, May 27
Balancing Act
9:00a.m.-12:00p.m.
Free Admission
North West YMCA
1375 N. Wellness Way
Bloomington

A Tai Chi based workshop for physical and emotional balance and wellness for all ages. Tai Chi is a practice utilizing slow, flowing movements that promote integration of the body, mind and spirit. Having been validated as one of the best practices for fall prevention, it also provides

direct functional applications to daily living activities. Jody Curley has a background in geriatric social work, occupational therapy, counseling psychology and dementia care. She specializes in adapting tai chi movements to people who have limitations or special needs.

Gayle Ebel
Wellness Director
812-961-2171
gebel@monroecountyymca.org
monroecountyymca.org

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Wednesday, May 28
Meaningful Days for Our Elders
11:30a.m.-1p.m.
Free Admission
North West YMCA
1375 N. Wellness Way
Bloomington

As life narrows, as it does for us all, days filled with meaning are even more important. Adult day health centers fill that gap, while simultaneously providing the caregiving support so essential to family and friend care partners. We have a long way to go to fill that need. Come hear about the history and the promising future of adult day health programming in our area with a panel of outstanding experts in the field. Bring your brown-bag lunch, if you like.

Gayle Ebel
Wellness Director
812-961-2171
gebel@monroecountyymca.org
monroecountyymca.org

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Wednesday, May 28
Making Space for Creativity
2:00-3:00p.m.
Free Admission: Donations gratefully accepted
Endwright Center, Area 10 Agency on Aging
631 W Edgewood Dr., Ellettsville

Jaime Sweany will discuss our enhanced potential for creativity as we age, and the positive effect the arts can have on our sense of self. Research finds that creativity can make retirement satisfying and rewarding. As we enter this time of increased creative potential, we may have relocated to a smaller space or have more possessions than comfortably fit into our home. Min Gates will share simple, manageable and incremental steps toward creating a healthy, orderly environment that will allow our self-expression and creativity to flow. To learn more, visit Min Gates' website, Downsize Maven.

Jaime Sweany Director, Endwright Center 812-876-3383, xt 582 isweany@area10agency.org http://www.area10agency.org

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Wednesday, May 28 Sound of the Big Bands 7:00-10:00p.m. Admission Fee: \$7 at the door Players Pub 424 S. Walnut

This will be a live musical performance by the Stardusters "little BIG Band" presenting music of the big band era which will be enjoyed by all but particularly by the more mature senior generation. Some members of the band are seniors. The show, Sounds of the Big Bands, will feature the music of the big bands of the 40's and 50's.

Jerry Jerome 812-935-7441 jerry@stardustersmusic.com

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Thursday, May 29 Cooking for One: Creativity in the Kitchen! 1:00-2:00p.m. Free Admission: Donations gratefully accepted

Endwright Center, Area 10 Agency on Aging

631 W Edgewood Dr., Ellettsville

Our guest chef will teach you how to enhance old favorites or experience new recipes using a more creative approach to seasonings and ingredients. You'll enjoy the delicious results and the healthy nutrition that a little variety and experimentation can bring to your meals!

Jaime Sweany Director, Endwright Center 812-876-3383, xt 515 jsweany@area10agency.org http://www.arealOagency.org

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Friday, May 30 That's a Wrap! 11:00-2:00p.m. Free Admission Better Day Club 4211 E 3rd St

Comfort Keepers is holding a reception at Better Day Club to thank the sponsors, the participants, the attendees and the Creative Aging Festival Committee all of whom made the Creative Aging Festival a huge success for 2014! Everyone is welcome!!

Stacey Goffinet
Marketing Manager
812-322-4529
Staceyg@Comfortkeepers.com
http://www.comfortkeepers.com/

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Commission on Aging

Introduction

The Commission on Aging advocates for and advises the Mayor, City Council and others about the status and needs of older adults in Bloomington. The Commission on Aging serves as a catalyst for improving public awareness of issues facing the senior and aging community. We work in collaboration with diverse community members and organizations to build bridges, open dialogue, celebrate accomplishments, encourage programming, and explore issues and concerns of older adults. Our intent is to promote solutions to the challenges of an increasing older adult population and celebrate the contributions of our older citizens.

Members of the Commission on Aging are Mary Boutain, Lauren Cowan, Sophia Hauserman, Julie Hill, Jack Kahn (Vice-Chairperson), James McLary, Alice Oestreich (Chairperson), Georgia Schaich, and Susan Salmon Snider.

Meetings are generally held on the second Tuesday of each month from 4:30 to 6:00 pm in City Hall (401 N. Morton St., Bloomington IN). These meetings are open to the public, and agendas/minutes are posted on our website: www.bloomington.in.gov/coa. For more information, please contact our City Liaison, Sue Owens at owens@bloomington.in.gov or 812-349-3430.

Current Initiatives

Creative Aging works to:

- promote a more positive perception of aging by highlighting organizations and events that create opportunities for older persons to explore, discover, and tap their potential;
- increase older adult participation in creative and civic activities; and

• enhance the quality of life for the citizens of our community by advancing the skill sets of the workforce serving our elder citizens.

Through our annual Creative Aging Festival, we assist the development of community events and collaborations that showcase the talents and skills of both established and emerging older artists, writers and performers; promote intergenerational understanding; and enhance awareness about the value of creative engagement to adult health and well-being.

Building a Community for a Lifetime advocates for policy change, systems development and programming that makes Bloomington a great city for all ages and abilities. We are working to build a community that is not only a great place to grow up, but also a great place to grow old. Current projects include:

- Sharing of information with city council members, city staff and the general public of proposed policy changes, aging issues and concerns. We are collaborating with other city commissions and coalitions to further advance initiatives such as affordable housing, accessibility in the built environment and home construction, and increased accessible transportation options.
- Investigating the establishment of a community center which fosters creative engagement for all ages.
- Educating and encouraging all citizens, including older adults, to prepare for natural disasters
 and other emergencies. We are working with several agencies and neighborhood
 associations to increase understanding about how to be prepared.